The Omnibus Homo Sacer
Giorgio Agamben

Giorgio Agamben’s Homo Sacer is one of the seminal works of political philosophy in recent decades. A twenty-year undertaking, this project is a series of interconnected investigations of staggering ambition and scope investigating the deepest foundations of every major Western institution and discourse.

This single book brings together for the first time all nine volumes that make up this groundbreaking project. Each volume takes a seemingly obscure and outdated issue as its starting point—an enigmatic figure in Roman law, or medieval debates about God’s management of creation, or theories about the origin of the oath—but is always guided by questions with urgent contemporary relevance.

The Omnibus Homo Sacer includes:

1. Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life
   2.1. State of Exception
   2.2. Stasis: Civil War as a Political Paradigm
   2.3. The Sacrament of Language: An Archeology of the Oath
   2.4. The Kingdom and the Glory: For a Theological Genealogy of Economy and Glory
   2.5. Opus Dei: An Archeology of Duty

3. Remnants of Auschwitz: The Witness and the Archive
   4.1. The Highest Poverty: Monastic Rules and Form-of-Life
   4.2. The Use of Bodies

Meridian: Crossing Aesthetics
1264 pages, April 2017
9781503603059 Cloth $90.00 $72.00 sale
The Mystery of Evil
Benedict XVI and the End of Days
Giorgio Agamben
Translated by Adam Kotsko

In 2013, Benedict XVI became only the second pope in the history of the Catholic Church to resign from office. In this brief but illuminating study, Giorgio Agamben argues that Benedict’s gesture, far from being solely a matter of internal ecclesiastical politics, is exemplary in an age when the question of legitimacy has been virtually left aside in favor of a narrow focus on legality. This reflection on the recent history of the Church opens out into an analysis of one of the earliest documents of Christianity: the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians, which stages a dramatic confrontation between the “man of lawlessness” and the enigmatic katechon, the power that holds back the end of days. In Agamben’s hands, this infamously obscure passage reveals the theological dynamics of history that continue to inform Western culture to this day.

MERIDIAN: CROSSING AESTHETICS
80 pages, May 2017
9781503602731 Paper $15.95   $12.76 sale

The Fire and The Tale
Giorgio Agamben
Translated by Lorenzo Chiesa

What is at stake in literature? Can we identify the fire that our stories have lost, but that they strive, at all costs, to rediscover? And what is the philosopher’s stone that writers, with the passion of alchemists, struggle to forge in their word furnaces? For Giorgio Agamben, who suggests that the parable is the secret model of all narrative, every act of creation tenaciously resists creation, thereby giving each work its strength and grace. The ten essays brought together here cover works by figures ranging from Aristotle to Paul Klee and illustrate what urgently drives Agamben’s current research. As is often the case with his writings, their especial focus is the mystery of literature, of reading and writing, and of language as a laboratory for conceiving an ethico-political perspective that places us beyond sovereign power.

MERIDIAN: CROSSING AESTHETICS
136 pages, March 2017
9781503601642 Paper $17.95   $14.36 sale

The Use of Bodies
Giorgio Agamben
Translated by Adam Kotsko

The final volume of Giorgio Agamben’s Homo Sacer project, The Use of Bodies breaks considerable new ground while clarifying the stakes and implications of the whole project. It radically rethinks notions of selfhood, calls for a complete reworking of Western ontology, explores the enigmatic concept of “form-of-life.”

MERIDIAN: CROSSING AESTHETICS
336 pages, 2016
9780804798402 Paper $25.95   $20.76 sale

Stasis
Civil War as a Political Paradigm
Giorgio Agamben

This book identifies civil war as an apparatus that has alternately allowed for the de-politicization of citizenship and the mobilization of the unpolitical. Agamben’s arguments, first conceived of in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, have become ever more relevant now that we have entered the age of planetary civil war.

MERIDIAN: CROSSING AESTHETICS
96 pages, 2015
9780804797313 Paper $15.95   $12.76 sale
Queer Theory
The French Response
Bruno Perreau

In 2012 and 2013, masses of French citizens took to the streets to demonstrate against a bill on gay marriage. But demonstrators were not merely denouncing its damaging effects; they were also claiming that its origins lay in “gender theory,” an ideology imported from the United States. By “gender theory” they meant queer theory in general and, more specifically, the work of noted scholar Judith Butler. They fear that pro-homosexual propaganda will not only pervert young people, but destroy the French nation itself.

This book explores the various facets of the French response to queer theory, from the mobilization of activists and the seminars of scholars to the emergence of queer media. Ironically, perceiving queer theory as a threat to France means overlooking the fact that queer theory itself has been largely inspired by French thinkers. By examining mutual influences across the Atlantic, Bruno Perreau analyzes changes in the idea of national identity and offers a new theory of minority politics.

“A signature contribution to contemporary political and critical theory.”

—Bernard Harcourt, Columbia University

“The most enduring challenge to traditional monotheism is the problem of evil: God is all-good and all-powerful, and yet evil happens. The Prince of This World traces the story of the offloading of responsibility for evil onto one of God’s rebellious creatures. In this striking reexamination, the devil emerges as a theological symbol who helps justify oppression at the hands of Christian rulers. And he evolves alongside the biblical God, who at first presents himself as the liberator of the oppressed but ends up a cruel ruler. This is the story, then, of how God becomes the devil—a devil who remains with us in our ostensibly secular age.

“This diabolically gripping genealogy offers a stunning parable of Western politics, religious and secular. […] With the ironic wisdom of a postmodern Beatrice, Kotsko guides us through the sequence of hells that leads to our own.”

—Catherine Keller, Drew University
Sonic Intimacy
Voice, Species, Technics (or, How to Listen to the World)
Dominic Pettman
Sonic Intimacy asks us who—or what—deserves to have a voice, beyond the human. Arguing that our ears are far too narrowly attuned to our own species, the book explores four different types of voices: the cybernetic, the gendered, the creaturely, and the ecological. Through both a conceptual framework and a series of case studies, Dominic Pettman tracks some of the ways in which these voices intersect and interact, demonstrating how intimacy is forged through the ear. Taken together, the manifold, material, actual voices of the world are a complex cacophony that is desperately trying to tell us something about the rapidly failing health of the planet and its inhabitants. As Pettman cautions, we would do well to listen.

“A perceptive, engaging, and clever set of meditations on a topic of increasing scholarly importance: how sound produces human, technical, and nonhuman intimacies. Innovative, refreshing, and quite needed at this time.”
—Richard Grusin,
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

The Manhattan Project
A Theory of a City
David Kishik
This sharp, witty study of a book never written, a sequel to Walter Benjamin’s Arcades Project, is dedicated to New York City, capital of the twentieth century. A sui generis work of experimental scholarship or fictional philosophy, it analyzes an imaginary manuscript composed by a ghost. Part sprawling literary montage, part fragmentary theory of modernity, part implosive manifesto on the urban revolution, The Manhattan Project offers readers New York as a landscape built of sheer life. It initiates them into a world of secret affinities between photography and graffiti, pragmatism and minimalism, Andy Warhol and Robert Moses, Hannah Arendt and Jane Jacobs, the flâneur and the homeless person, the collector and the hoarder, the glass-covered arcade and the bare, concrete street.

“A beguiling work of literary and social criticism.”
—Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review

“The Story of Reason in Islam
Sari Nusseibeh
In The Story of Reason in Islam, Sari Nusseibeh narrates a sweeping intellectual history—a quest for knowledge inspired by the Qu’ran and its language, a quest that employed Reason in the service of Faith. Eschewing the conventional separation of Faith and Reason, he takes a fresh look at why and how Islamic reasoning evolved over time. Reason reached its zenith in the early seventeenth century and then trailed off, leading to a less flexible Islam. Nusseibeh’s speculations as to why this occurred focus on the fortunes and misfortunes of classical Arabic in the Islamic world. Change, he suggests, may only come from the revivification of language itself.

“Engagingly written and ambitious. Novel in approach and mindful of the concerns of the present, this book focuses not only on the story of philosophy, but also on the hermeneutics of scripture, the understanding of the arts and sciences, and the relation between law and ethics.”
—Sajjad Rizvi,
University of Exeter

CULTURAL MEMORY IN THE PRESENT
288 pages, November 2016
9781503600577 Paper $29.95 $23.96 sale
An internationally famous philosopher and best-selling author during his lifetime, Georg Simmel has been marginalized in contemporary intellectual and cultural history. This neglect belies his groundbreaking role in revealing the theoretical significance of phenomena—including money, gender, urban life, and technology—that subsequently became established arenas of inquiry in cultural theory. It further ignores his philosophical impact on thinkers as diverse as Benjamin, Musil, and Heidegger. Integrating intellectual biography, philosophical interpretation, and a critical examination of the history of academic disciplines, this book restores Simmel to his rightful place as a major figure and challenges the frameworks through which his contributions to modern thought have been at once remembered and forgotten.

“This book does more than contribute to our understanding of a major modern thinker: it offers a fascinating analysis of knowledge formation at the turn of the twentieth century.”

—Michael Jennings, Princeton University

Richard Swedberg and Ola Agevall

This fully updated and expanded edition reflects current scholarly threads of inquiry and introduces the most recent translations and references to Weber’s work. A wealth of new entries on various topics—including pragmatism and race and racism—have been added in light of the newly completed definitive German edition of Weber’s work. All entries are developed to help researchers use Weber’s ideas in their own work, and illuminate how Weber himself thought theorizing should occur. Every entry in the dictionary delves into Weber scholarship and acts as a point of departure for discussion and research. More than an elementary dictionary, this book makes a contribution to the general culture and legacy of Weber’s work. As such, this book is an invaluable resource to students, scholars, and general readers alike.

“An indispensable source of reference for social scientists.”

—Sam Whimster, editor of the Journal for Max Weber Studies

State Phobia and Civil Society

The Political Legacy of Michel Foucault

Mitchell Dean and Kaspar Villadsen

State Phobia and Civil Society draws extensively upon the work of Michel Foucault to argue for the necessity of the concept of the state in political and social analysis. In so doing, it takes on not only the dominant view in the human sciences that the concept of the state is outmoded, but also the large interpretative literature on Foucault, which alleges that he displaces the state for a de-centered analytics of power. In truth, Foucault’s own view is highly ambiguous: He claims to be concerned with the exercise of political sovereignty, yet his work cannot make visible the concept of the state. Moving beyond Foucault, the authors outline new ways of conceiving the state’s role in establishing social order and in mediating between an inequality-producing capitalist economy and the juridical equality and political rights of individuals.

“A milestone in Foucault studies and social and political theory.”

—Sanford Schram, Hunter College
The Figure of the Migrant
Thomas Nail

The last decade has marked the highest number of migrations in recorded history. Constrained by environmental, economic, and political instability, scores of people are on the move. But other sorts of changes—from global tourism to undocumented labor—have led to the fact that to some extent, we are all becoming migrants. The migrant has become the political figure of our time.

Rather than viewing migration as the exception to the rule of political fixity and citizenship, Thomas Nail reinterprets the history of political power from the perspective of the movement that defines the migrant in the first place. Applying his “kinopolitics” to several major historical conditions and figures of migration, he provides fresh tools for the analysis of contemporary migration.

“A bold and provocative engagement with one of the world’s most pressing contemporary issues.”
—Stuart Elden, University of Warwick

Plant Theory
Biopower and Vegetable Life
Jeffrey T. Nealon

In our age of ecological disaster, this book joins the growing philosophical literature on vegetable life to ask how our present debates about biopower and animal studies change if we take plants as a linchpin for thinking about biopolitics. Upending critical approaches of biopolitical regimes, it argues that it is plants rather than animals that are the forgotten and abjected forms of life under humanist biopower. Provocatively, Jeffrey T. Nealon wonders whether animal studies, which has taken the “inventor” of biopower himself to task for speciesism, has not misread Foucault, thereby managing to extend humanist biopower rather than to curb its reach.

“Ironic but mercifully not postmodern, patient and eminently readable, Jeffrey Nealon’s book… is without question a singular contribution to recent research on biopolitics, animal studies, and the burgeoning field of ‘plant theory.’”
—Timothy Campbell, Cornell University

Foucault and the Politics of Rights
Ben Golder

In his early career, Michel Foucault had been a great critic of the liberal discourse of rights. Yet from about 1976 onward, he suddenly makes increasing appeals to rights in his philosophical writings, political statements, interviews, and journalism. He not only defends their importance; he argues for rights new and as-yet-unrecognized. Ben Golder proposes that Foucault approaches rights in a spirit of creative and critical appropriation. He uses them strategically for a range of political purposes that cannot be reduced to a simple endorsement of political liberalism.

“Even though I’ve now seen him do it, I’m still amazed that Golder has been able to pull off such a powerful and fresh rereading of Foucault, one so relevant for contemporary debates in theory and politics. An absolute must-read for anyone interested in Foucault or in rights more generally.”
—Samuel Chambers, The Johns Hopkins University

264 pages, 2015
9780804796491 Paper $24.95 $19.96 sale

The Figure of the Migrant
Thomas Nail

312 pages, 2015
9780804796583 Paper $24.95 $19.96 sale

Plant Theory
Biopower and Vegetable Life
Jeffrey T. Nealon

168 pages, 2015
9780804796750 Paper $19.95 $15.96 sale
The Burnout Society
Byung-Chul Han

Our competitive, service-oriented societies are taking a toll on the late-modern individual. Rather than improving life, multitasking, “user-friendly” technology, and the culture of convenience are producing disorders that range from depression to attention deficit disorder to borderline personality disorder. Byung-Chul Han interprets the spreading malaise as an inability to manage negative experiences in an age characterized by excessive positivity and the universal availability of people and goods. Stress and exhaustion are not just personal experiences, but social and historical phenomena as well. Denouncing a world in which every against-the-grain response can lead to further disempowerment, he draws on literature, philosophy, and the social and natural sciences to explore the stakes of sacrificing intermittent intellectual reflection for constant neural connection.

72 pages, 2015
9780804795098 Paper $12.99 $10.39 sale

The Transparency Society
Byung-Chul Han

Considered crucial to democracy, transparency touches our political and economic lives as well as our private lives. Everything—and everyone—has become transparent: unveiled or exposed by the apparatuses that exert a kind of collective control over the post-capitalist world.

For transparency has a dark side that, ironically, has everything to do with a lack of mystery, shadow, and nuance. Behind the apparent accessibility of knowledge lies the disappearance of privacy, homogenization, and the collapse of trust. The anxiety to accumulate ever more information does not necessarily produce more knowledge or faith. Technology creates the illusion of total containment and constant monitoring of information, but what we lack is adequate interpretation. In this manifesto, Byung-Chul Han denounces transparency as a false ideal.

72 pages, 2015
9780804794602 Paper $12.99 $10.39 sale

Thinking Through Animals
Identity, Difference, Indistinction
Matthew Calarco

This timely book provides an overview and analysis of the most influential trends in critical animal studies: identity, difference, and indistinction. Approachably written, it is intended for readers sympathetic to the project of changing our ways of thinking about and interacting with animals yet relatively new to the variety of philosophical ideas and figures in the discipline. Each trend is interrogated for its relative strengths and weaknesses, with specific emphasis placed on the kinds of transformational potential it contains.

“Concise, incisive, and written with exemplary clarity, this book provides all of the background necessary to understand the philosophical and political stakes of current debates around the status of animals in relation to humans. It will appeal to non-specialists and specialists alike.”

—Brian Massumi, University of Montréal

88 pages, 2015
9780804794046 Paper $12.99 $10.39 sale
Love as Human Freedom
Paul A. Kottman

Rather than see love as a natural form of affection, Love As Human Freedom sees love as a practice that changes over time through which new social realities are brought into being—from the rise of feminism and the emergence of bourgeois family life, to the struggles for abortion rights and birth control and the erosion of a gender-based division of labor. Drawing on Hegel, Paul A. Kottman argues that love generates and explains expanded possibilities for freely lived lives. Through keen interpretations of Shakespeare, Plato, Nietzsche, Ovid, Flaubert, Tolstoy, and others, his book treats love as a fundamental way that we humans make sense of temporal change, especially the inevitability of death and the propagation of life.

“We have here a kind of philosophical-historical cultural anthropology that is very clear, often elegant, and quite direct in proposing its ambitious claims, with brilliant discussions that are deeply felt and finely argued. Paul Kottman’s scholarship is world-class, just superb.”

—Robert Pippin, University of Chicago

“A risk-taking and ambitious book that makes a series of interlocking, counter-intuitive arguments. Love is not, Paul Kottman claims, inescapably bound up with the irrational; on the contrary, it is the way we have taught ourselves that we are both rational and free. A wild ride.”

—Stephen Greenblatt, author of The Swerve: How the World Became Modern

Inclinations
A Critique of Rectitude
Adriana Cavarero

In this book, Italy’s best known feminist philosopher examines the moral and political significance of vertical posture to rethink subjectivity in terms of inclination. Contesting the classical figure of homo erectus or “upright man,” Adriana Cavarero proposes an altruistic, open model of the subject—one who is inclined toward others. Contrasting the masculine upright with the feminine inclined, she references philosophical texts (by Plato, Hobbes, Kant, Hannah Arendt, Elias Canetti) as well as works of art (Barnett Newman, da Vinci, Artemisia Gentileschi, and Alexander Rodchenko) and literature (Proust and Woolf).

“Inclinations bears all the marks of Cavarero’s work: rigorous argumentation, a style at once direct and playful, a wide-ranging command of the philosophical tradition, and trenchant feminist critique.”

—Barbara Spackman, University of California at Berkeley

Kottman argues that love generates and explains expanded possibilities for freely lived lives. Through keen interpretations of Shakespeare, Plato, Nietzsche, Ovid, Flaubert, Tolstoy, and others, his book treats love as a fundamental way that we humans make sense of temporal change, especially the inevitability of death and the propagation of life.
Dead Pledges
Debt, Crisis, and Twenty-First-Century Culture
Annie McClanahan

Dead Pledges is the first book to explore the ways that U.S. culture—from novels and poems to photojournalism and horror movies—has responded to the collapse of the financialized consumer credit economy in 2008. Connecting debt theory to questions of cultural form, this book argues that artists, filmmakers, and writers have re-imagined what it means to owe and to own in a period when debt is what makes our economic lives possible. A searing critique of the ideology of debt, Dead Pledges dismantles the discourse of moral obligation so often invoked to make us repay. Debt is no longer a source of economic credibility, it contends, but is a system of dispossession that threatens the basic fabric of social life.

“An exemplary demonstration of how literary and cultural analysis can address urgent social and political problems. A timely work of critical debt theory, poised to reshape the transdisciplinary debates around debt and contemporary capitalism.”
—Richard Dienst, Rutgers University

Making Literature Now
Amy Hungerford

How does new writing emerge and find readers today? Why does one writer’s work become famous while another’s remains invisible? Making Literature Now tells the stories of the people who make their living by making literature itself come alive. The book shows how various conditions—gender, education, business dynamics, social networks, money, and the forces of literary tradition—affect the things we can choose, or refuse, to read. Amy Hungerford focuses on literary bestsellers as well as little-known traditional and digital literature from smaller presses, such as McSweeney’s. Ranging from fine-grained ethnography to polemical argument, this book transforms our sense of how and why new literature appears—and disappears—in contemporary American culture.

“The intelligence at work here is scintillating without ever being merely flashy, and Bernes’s readings of poetry, history, and the relations between the two are compelling.”
—Michael Bérubé, Pennsylvania State University

The Work of Art in the Age of Deindustrialization
Jasper Bernes

A novel account of the relationship between postindustrial capitalism and postmodern culture, this book looks at American poetry and art of the last fifty years in light of the massive changes in people’s working lives. The Work of Art in the Age of Deindustrialization argues that art and literature not only reflected transformations in the workplace but anticipated and may have contributed to them as well, providing some of the terms through which resistance to labor was expressed. As firms continue to tout creativity and to reorganize in response to this resistance, they increasingly rely on models of labor that derive from values and ideas found in the experimental poetry and conceptual art of decades past.

“The intelligence at work here is scintillating without ever being merely flashy, and Bernes’s readings of poetry, history, and the relations between the two are compelling.”
—Richard Dienst, Rutgers University

248 pages, 2016
97808047999409 Paper $22.95 $18.36 sale

288 pages, May 2017
97808047996415 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale

248 pages, 2016
9780804799058 Cloth $60.00 $48.00 sale
Plain Text
The Poetics of Computation
Dennis Tenen
This book challenges the ways we read, write, store, and retrieve information in the digital age. Computers—from electronic books to smart phones—play an active role in our social lives. Our technological choices thus entail theoretical and political commitments. Dennis Tenen takes up today’s strange enmeshing of humans, texts, and machines to argue that our most ingrained intuitions about texts are profoundly alienated from the physical contexts of their intellectual production. Drawing on a range of primary sources from both literary theory and software engineering, he makes a case for a more transparent practice of human–computer interaction. 

"Plain Text shows us that text is anything but plain—this is a sharp and imaginative contribution to the debates around what it means to produce, read, and process texts in the era of digital culture."

—Matthew Fuller, Goldsmiths, University of London

"An essential read for those interested in text in its many contemporary cultural contexts and points of impact—Tenen moves from strength to strength across (inter)disciplinary points of engagement with a welcome personal acuity."

—Ray Siemens, University of Victoria

The Social Imperative
Race, Close Reading, and Contemporary Literary Criticism
Paula M. L. Moya
This book reminds us that while literature will never by itself change the world, it remains a powerful tool and important actor in the ongoing struggle to imagine better ways to be human and free. Figuring the relationship between reader and text as a type of friendship, it shows that our multiple social contexts affect what we perceive and how we feel when we read. Paula M. L. Moya champions a kind of close reading that attends to how literature reflects, promotes, and contests pervasive sociocultural ideas about race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, demonstrating the power of works of literature to alter perceptions and reshape cultural imaginaries.

"The Social Imperative teaches us not only about literature, race, and criticism, but about life, how we live, and what it means that the world we live in has literature in it. It is a book that scholars in the humanities have been sorely needing."

—Michael Hames-García, University of Oregon

280 pages, June 2017
9781503602281 Paper $24.95 $19.96 sale

224 pages, 2015
9780804797023 Paper $22.95 $18.36 sale
Impossible Modernism
T. S. Eliot, Walter Benjamin, and the Critique of Historical Reason
Robert S. Lehman

Impossible Modernism reads the writings of Walter Benjamin (1892–1940) and T. S. Eliot (1888–1965) to examine the relationship between literary and historical form during the modernist period. It focuses particularly on how they resisted the forms of narration established by nineteenth-century academic historians and turned instead to traditional literary devices—lyric, satire, anecdote, and allegory—to reimagine forms of historical representation. Tracing the fraught relationship between poetry and history back to Aristotle's Poetics and forward to Nietzsche's Untimely Meditations, Robert S. Lehman offers an analysis of the intellectual–historical problem that the two men inherited and grappled within their major works.

"The most attentive and sustained readings of poetry and criticism that I have encountered in many years. No reader of this book can fail to admire and learn from Lehman's comprehensive erudition within the field of modernist studies and beyond."
—Steven Miller, State University of New York, Buffalo

272 pages, 2016
9780804799041 Cloth $60.00 $48.00 sale

Watchwords
Romanticism and the Poetics of Attention
Lily Gurton-Wachter

This book revisits British Romanticism as a poetics of heightened attention. At the turn of the nineteenth century, as Britain was on the alert for a possible French invasion, attention became a phenomenon of widespread interest, one that aligned and distinguished an unusual range of fields (including medicine, aesthetics, theology, ethics, pedagogy, and politics). Within this wartime context, the Romantic aesthetic tradition appears as a response to a crisis in attention caused by demands on both soldiers and civilians to keep watch. Close formal readings of the poetry of Blake, Coleridge, Cowper, Keats, (Charlotte) Smith, and Wordsworth, in conversation with research into Enlightenment philosophy and political and military discourses, suggest the variety of forces competing for—or commanding—attention. This new framework for interpreting Romanticism and its legacy illuminates what turns out to be an ongoing tradition of war literature that experiments with how and what we attend to during times of war.

288 pages, 2016
9780804796958 Cloth $60.00 $48.00 sale

The History of Missed Opportunities
British Romanticism and the Emergence of the Everyday
William H. Galperin

Through close engagement with the work of Wordsworth, Austen, and Byron, The History of Missed Opportunities posits that the everyday first emerged as a distinct category of experience, or first became thinkable, in the Romantic period. Conceived here as something overlooked and only noticed in retrospect, the everyday not only becomes subject matter for Romanticism, it also structures Romantic poetry, prose, and writing habits.

Consciousness of the everyday entails a new relationship to time, as the Romantics turn to the history of what might have been. In recounting Romanticism’s interest in making things recurrently present, William H. Galperin positions the Romantics as precursors to twentieth-century thinkers of the everyday, including Heidegger, Benjamin, Lefebvre, and Cavell. He attends to Romantic discourse that works at cross purposes with standard accounts of both Romanticism and Romantic subjectivity.

216 pages, May 2017
9781503600195 Cloth $55.00 $44.00 sale
An American Cakewalk
Ten Syncopators of the Modern World
Zeese Papanikolas
The profound economic and social changes in the post-Civil War United States created new challenges to a nation founded on Enlightenment and transcendental values, religious certainties, and rural traditions. Newly-freed African Americans, emboldened women, intellectuals and artists, and a polyglot tide of immigrants found themselves in a restless new world of railroads, factories, and skyscrapers where old assumptions were being challenged and new values had yet to be created. In An American Cakewalk: Ten Syncopators of the Modern World, Zeese Papanikolas tells the lively and entertaining story of a diverse group of figures in the arts and sciences who inhabited this new America. The book’s protagonists—who range from Emily Dickinson to Thorstein Veblen and from Henry and William James to Charles Mingus—used the arts of parody, satire, and disguise to subvert American cultural norms and to create new works of astonishing beauty and intellectual vigor. 

256 pages, 2015
9780804791991 Cloth $35.00 $28.00 sale

Robinson Jeffers
Poet and Prophet
James Karman
The California coast comes alive in the poetry of John Robinson Jeffers, an icon of the environmental movement. In this concise and accessible biography, James Karman reveals deep insights into this passionate and complex figure and establishes Jeffers as a leading American poet of prophetic vision. Jeffers’s vivid and descriptive poetry of the coast evoked the difficulty and beauty of the wild, inspiring artists such as Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Charles Bukowski, and even the Beach Boys. The poet’s contribution to American letters is skillfully brought out of the shadows of history in this compelling biography of a complex poetic genius who wrote so powerfully of the astonishing beauty of nature.

“The Yield
Kafka’s Atheological Reformation
Paul North
The Yield is a once-in-a-generation reinterpretation of the oeuvre of Franz Kafka, presenting a Kafka few will recognize through a fine-grained analysis of the three hundred “thoughts” the writer penned near the end of World War I, when he had just been diagnosed with tuberculosis. Since their discovery after Kafka’s death, the meaning of the so-called “Zürau aphorisms” has been open to debate. Paul North’s elucidates what amounts to Kafka’s only theoretical work, showing it to contain reflections on secular modernity and the theological ideas that continue to determine it.

“An excellent book and a true gem. It has accomplished what no Kafka critic has ever managed to do completely: to provide a clear, intelligent, and systematic account of the convoluted, contradictory, and counter-intuitive fragments written by Kafka during his Zürau retreat.”
—Jean-Michel Rabaté, University of Pennsylvania

MERIDIAN: CROSSING AESTHETICS
400 pages, 2015
9780804796590 Paper $25.95 $20.76 sale
Ninette of Sin Street
A novella by Vitalis Danon
Edited with an Introduction and Notes by Lia Brozgal and Sarah Abrevaya Stein
Published in Tunis in 1938, Ninette of Sin Street is one of the first works of Tunisian fiction in French. Ninette is an unlikely protagonist: Compelled by poverty to work as a prostitute, she dreams of a better life and an education for her son. Plucky and street-wise, she enrols her son in the local school and the story unfolds as she narrates her life to the school's headmaster. Ninette's account is both a classic rags-to-riches tale and a subtle, incisive critique of French colonialism. That Ninette's story should still prove surprising today suggests how much we stand to learn from history, and from the secrets of Sin Street itself.

This volume offers the first English translation of Vitalis Danon's best-known work. A selection of his letters and an editors' introduction and notes provide context for this cornerstone of Judeo-Tunisian letters.

136 pages, May 2017
9781503602137 Paper $24.95 $19.96 sale

David Balfour
Robert Louis Stevenson
Edited with an Introduction and Notes by Barry Menikoff
Published by Huntington Library Press and distributed by Stanford University Press, this edition of David Balfour, which continues the epic story begun in Kidnapped, is based upon the original manuscript at Harvard University's Houghton Library. It presents—for the first time—the text as Robert Louis Stevenson wrote it. The introductory essay by Barry Menikoff restores the novel to its rightful place, alongside Kidnapped, as Stevenson's finest achievement in fiction, while Menikoff's extensive notes and glossary open up the political, cultural, and linguistic world of eighteenth-century Scotland for today's reader. Striking color illustrations from the original oil paintings of N.C. Wyeth, created in 1924, accompany the text.

376 pages, 2016
9780873282574 Cloth $25.00 $20.00 sale

Souffles-Anfas
A Critical Anthology from the Moroccan Journal of Culture and Politics
Edited by Olivia C. Harrison and Teresa Villa-Ignacio
This book makes available for the first time in English an incandescent corpus of experimental leftist writing from North Africa, from the Moroccan journal Souffles-Anfas. A critical introduction and section headnotes make this collection the perfect companion for courses in postcolonial theory, world literature, and poetry in translation.

304 pages, 2015
9780804796156 Paper $21.95 $17.56 sale

Transcolonial Maghreb
Imagining Palestine in the Era of Decolonization
Olivia C. Harrison
Transcolonial Maghreb offers the first thorough analysis of the ways in which Moroccan, Algerian, and Tunisian writers have engaged with the Palestinian question and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict for the past fifty years. The result has wide implications for the study of transcolonial relations across the Global South.

CULTURAL MEMORY IN THE PRESENT
232 pages, 2015
9780804794213 Cloth $50.00 $40.00 sale
Fact in Fiction
1920s China and Ba Jin’s Family
Kristin Stapleton

In Fact in Fiction, Kristin Stapleton puts Ba Jin’s bestseller, Family, into full historical context, both to illustrate how it successfully portrays human experiences during the 1920s and to reveal its historical distortions. She focuses on Chengdu, China, Ba Jin’s birthplace and the setting for Family, which was also a cultural and political center of western China. The city’s richly preserved archives allow for an intimate portrait of a city that seemed far from the center of national politics of the day but clearly felt the forces of—and contributed to—the turbulent stream of Chinese history.

“This book is beautifully written and a real pleasure to read. A useful complement to Family, it is an instructive example of how to read literary sources with attention to their motivation and historical context.”
—Henrietta Harrison, University of Oxford

296 pages, 2016
9781503601062 Paper $25.95 $20.76 sale

Beyond Nation
Time, Writing, and Community in the Work of Abe Kōbō
Richard F. Calichman

In the English-speaking world, Abe Kōbō (1924–1993) is primarily known as a Japanese writer whose works explore the alienation of the individual within a repressive society. Richard Calichman reads this alienation as an attack on the concept of national affiliation and resistance to the nostalgic fiction of authentic communities promoted by governments. Arguing that the question of national identification has long been neglected by scholars, Calichman shows how, in Kōbō’s work, the formation of community is constantly displaced by the notions of time and writing. Beyond Nation thus analyzes the elements of Orientalism, culturalism, and racism that often underlie the appeal to collective Japanese identity.

“A remarkable writer and philosopher, Abe Kōbō raised questions about human existence and the boundaries of identity which have powerful resonance for the present day. A profound and illuminating perspective on Abe’s vision of the human condition.”
—Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Australian National University

288 pages, 2016
9780804797016 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale

NOW IN PAPERBACK

Literature and the Creative Economy
Sarah Brouillette

This book contends that mainstream considerations of the economic and social force of culture are indebted to historic conceptions of the art of literary authorship. It shows how contemporary literature has been involved in and has responded to creative-economy phenomena, including the presentation of artists as models of contentedly flexible and self-managed work, the treatment of training in and exposure to art as a pathway to social inclusion, the use of culture and cultural institutions to increase property values, and support for cultural diversity as a means of growing cultural markets. Taking a sociological approach to literary criticism, Sarah Brouillette interprets major works of contemporary fiction by Monica Ali, Aravind Adiga, Daljit Nagra, and Ian McEwan alongside government policy, social science, and theoretical explorations of creative work and immaterial labor.

“Brouillette has written the definitive account of contemporary British literature—and of the now pandemic effort to monetize creativity.”
—Michael Szalay, University of California, Irvine

248 pages, March 2017
9781503602809 Paper $24.95 $19.96 sale
Vanishing Streets  
Journeys in London  
J. M. Tyree  

This book reveals an American writer’s twenty-year love affair with London. Beguiling and idiosyncratic, obsessive and wry, it offers an illustrated travelogue of the peripheries, retracing some of London’s most curious locations. J. M. Tyree blends deeply personal writing with a foreigner’s observations on a world capital experiencing an unsettling moment of transition. Vanishing Streets is an astonishing and innovative multi-layered project combining autobiography, movie madness, and postcard-like annotations on the magical properties of a great city.

“Vanishing Streets encompasses so many different forms: it’s a travelogue through an endlessly fascinating city, a deeply affecting memoir, and an elegy for London. J. M. Tyree’s voice is myriad as well: wise and ironic and funny and frank and searing and honest. Readers will want to remain in Tyree’s London long after they finish this book, drunk with wandering and wondering.”
—Jesmyn Ward, author of Salvage the Bones and Men We Reaped

Us&Them  
A Novel  
Bahiyyih Nakhjavani  

Lili and Goli have argued endlessly about where their mother, Bibijan, should live since the Iranian Revolution. They disagree about her finances too, which remain blocked as long as she insists on waiting for her son—missing but not presumed dead—to return from the Iran–Iraq war. But once they begin to “share” the old woman, sending her back and forth between Paris and Los Angeles, they start asking themselves where the money might be coming from. Only their Persian half-sister in Iran and the Westernized granddaughter of the family have the courage to face up to the answers.

A story mirrored in fragmented lives, Us&Them explores the ludicrous and the tragic, the venal and the generous-hearted aspects of Iranian life away from home. It also highlights how “we” can become “them” at any moment, for our true exile is alienation from others. Bahiyyih Nakhjavani offers a poignant satire about migration, one of the vital issues of our times.

“The Marriage Plot  
Or, How Jews Fell in Love with Love, and with Literature  
Naomi Seidman  

In The Marriage Plot, Naomi Seidman considers the evolution of Jewish love and marriage through the literature that provided Jews with a sentimental education. Nineteenth-century Hebrew and Yiddish literature tempered romantic love with the claims of family and community, and treated the rules of gender complementarity as comedic fodder. Twentieth-century Jewish writers turned back to tradition, finding pleasures in matchmaking, intergenerational ties, and sexual segregation. In the modern Jewish voices of Sigmund Freud, Erica Jong, Philip Roth, and Tony Kushner, the Jewish heretical challenge to the European romantic sublime has become the central sexual ideology of our time.

“A beautifully written book that is equally illuminating about traditional texts and contemporary performances. The Marriage Plot is a foundational work for anyone interested in Jewish literary and cultural studies.”
—Anita Norich, University of Michigan

Vanishing Streets  
Journeys in London  
J. M. Tyree  

Us&Them  
A Novel  
Bahiyyih Nakhjavani  

The Marriage Plot  
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Naomi Seidman  

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE  
368 pages, 2016  
9780804799676 Paper $29.95  $23.96 sale  

REDWOOD PRESS  
184 pages, 2016  
9781503600034 Cloth $25.00  $20.00 sale  

REDWOOD PRESS  
312 pages, March 2017  
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The Full Severity of Compassion
The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai
Chana Kronfeld

Widely considered one of the greatest poets of our time and the most important Jewish poet since Paul Celan, Yehuda Amichai (1924–2000) is beloved by readers the world over. Beneath the carefully crafted and accessible surface of his poetry lies a profound, complex, and often revolutionary poetic vision that deliberately disrupts traditional literary boundaries and distinctions. Chana Kronfeld focuses on the stylistic implications of Amichai's poetic philosophy and on what she describes as his "acerbic critique of ideology." She rescues Amichai's poetry from complacent appropriations, showing how his work obliges us to rethink major issues in literary studies, including metaphor, intertextuality, translation, and the politics of poetic form.

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
416 pages, 2015
9780804782951 Cloth $55.00 $44.00 sale

Suddenly, the Sight of War
Violence and Nationalism in Hebrew Poetry in the 1940s
Hannah Hever

In this genealogy of Hebrew poetry written in Israel between World War II and the War of Independence, Hannan Hever sheds light on how the views and poetic practices of poets changed as they became aware of the extreme violence in Europe toward the Jews.

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
272 pages, 2016
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Homeless Tongues
Poetry and Languages of the Sephardic Diaspora
Monique R. Balbuena

This book examines a group of multicultural Jewish poets to address the issue of multilingualism within a context of minor languages and literatures, nationalism, and diaspora. It introduces three writers working in minor or threatened languages who challenge the usual consensus of Jewish literature.

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
288 pages, 2016
9780804760119 Cloth $55.00 $44.00 sale
Arresting Cinema
Surveillance in Hong Kong Film
Karen Fang

In Arresting Cinema, Karen Fang delivers a unifying account of Hong Kong cinema that draws upon its renowned crime films and other unique genres to demonstrate Hong Kong’s view of surveillance. She argues that Hong Kong’s films display a tolerance of—and even opportunism towards—constant observation, unlike the fearful view prevalent in the West. These films show a more crowded, increasingly economically stratified, and postnational world that nevertheless offers an aura of hopeful futurity. However, many surveillance cinema studies focus solely on European and Hollywood films. Only by exploring Hong Kong surveillance film can we begin to shape a truly global understanding of Hitchcock’s “rear window ethics.”

“Innovative, refreshing, and yes, arresting. Fang’s analysis offers an essential complement to Western scholarship on cinema and surveillance.”
—Michael Curtin, University of California, Santa Barbara

240 pages, January 2017
9781503600706 Paper $24.95 $19.96 sale

Dada Presentism
An Essay on Art and History
Maria Stavrinaki

Dada is often celebrated for its strategies of shock and opposition, but in Dada Presentism, Maria Stavrinaki provides a new picture of Dada art and writings as a lucid reflection on history and the role of art within it. She investigates what seems to be a real oxymoron of the movement: its simultaneous claim to the ephemeral and its compulsive writing of its own history.

128 pages, 2016
9780804798129 Paper $17.95 $14.36 sale
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When Melodies Gather
Samuel Liebhaber
This project is built on the largest collection of poetic recordings in the endangered Mahri language, approximately 60 poems, each of which is provided with transcription, translation into English, and lexical and grammatical annotations. The core of the project constitutes an innovative classification system based on the intrinsic formal characteristics of the poems. The web-based medium allows users to explore the diversity and complexity of the Mahra’s poetic expressions and experience the poet’s creative process.

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The Chinese Deathscape
Thomas S. Mullaney
This project examines the phenomenon of grave relocation in late imperial and modern China, a campaign that has led to the exhumation and reburial of 10 million corpses in the past decade alone and has transformed China’s graveyards into sites of acute personal, social, political, and economic contestation. Building on a bespoke spatial analysis platform, five historians and anthropologists of the Chinese world approach the phenomenon of grave relocation via essays that move from the local to the global. Framing these essays are contributions by the editor and the platform developer reflecting on the methods applied in this original approach to Chinese history.

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